Robertson, J Ross [The Evening Telegram, Toronto] 1917 - 1918

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THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN,

COLLEGE STREET.

THE LAKESIDE HOME FOR LITTLE CHILDREN,

TORONTO ISLAND.

J. ROSS ROBERTSON, Chairman

DOUGLAS DAVIDSON, Sec'y-Treas.

October 24th, 1917.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto.

My dear Sir Robert,

The present war has called for unusual demands upon the medical profession all over the world. Canada has, without a doubt, done her duty.

The time has arrived when some action should be taken to cope with conditions at home. The Hospital for Sick Children has sent overseas some thirty-five members of the Attending Staff, including house surgeons. This has left the staff in a much depleted condition. The military work and hospital duties which the present staff are engaged in is gradually passing beyond their working capacity; our surgical service is feeling this more so every day, and the demand for trained orthopedic surgeons is increasing daily. Our chief surgeon, Dr. C. L. Starr, who is serving Overseas has been recalled by the Militia for duty in Canada. In the near future we are to lose Dr. W.E.Gallie, who leaves for military service in England. Our surgical staff will then consist of one orthopedic surgeon.

This state of affairs must not be permitted to exist. Not only will the Hospital for Sick Children feel the brunt of this, but also the orthopedic work necessary for returned soldiers. Accordingly I feel justified in calling upon you as President of the University of Toronto, to use all in your power to help us out at this crisis.

The recalling of one or two of our staff from overseas offers itself as a fair means of relieving the situation. The name of Dr. L. Bruce Robertson has been suggested. He entered the Militia at the commencement of the war and has served his turn at the front where he is to-day. His extensive early training in orthopedic surgery warrants us in requesting his return.

Will you kindly take the necessary action that will secure the return of Dr. L. Bruce Robertson.

Yours truly,

JRR/W.

J Ross Robertson
Chairman.

Robertson, J Ross

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1917-1918

October 27th, 1917

J. Ross Robertson, Esq.,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

I have to-day sent a letter to the Acting Canadian Minister of Militia Overseas asking for the return of Dr. L. Bruce Robertson. I am enclosing you a copy of the letter.

Yours sincerely,

President.

THE EVENING TELEGRAM
TORONTO

December 7th, 1917.

Sir Robert Falconer,
President, University of Toronto,
Toronto.

My dear Sir Robert, Re Dr. L. Bruce Robertson

You will remember that some weeks ago I spoke to you about a recall for my nephew who has been overseas since the beginning of the war. I pointed out to you the condition of affairs at the Hospital for Sick Children and you assented to my request to write for his recall.

Since that time I have seen Dr. Clarence Starr, who is decidedly of the opinion that my nephew should return and do his share of the work at the Hospital for Sick Children. He says that my nephew has done splendid work at the front but he thinks it would be well that he should return.

The fact is, Mr. President, that Starr says that Bruce was not looking as well as he would like to see him.

Dr. Starr said that he was going to write at once to authorities in England to say that Bruce should be sent back at once.

I may say that Bruce, in a letter to me dated Nov. 17th, says that Dr. Starr wrote to him just before he left England a few weeks ago asking Bruce to "consider the wisdom of returning to Toronto". In reply Bruce said "I am willing to go back if recalled, but will not make any move on my own part for a transfer."

So now that we have Bruce's consent to return there ought to be no trouble about getting him back, on the staff of the Hospital for Sick Children.

Dr. Starr has gone to Washington and I have been unable to get at him, but I am writing a letter in triplicate and will send it to two or three places so that I may be able to get an appointment with him on his return.

Is there anything further you can do in the line of helping us to get Bruce back. If any cabling is necessary I shall be glad to defray the cost.

Yours sincerely,

JRR/W.

J. Ross Robertson

December 8th, 1917

J. Ross Robertson, Esq.,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Ross Robertson:

I should have had an answer before this from the Canadian Overseas Minister of Militia with regard to Dr. Bruce Robertson, but it has not yet come, and in view of Dr. Clarence Starr's letter I shall be glad to send a cable. Perhaps you have some code by which it could be sent more readily than I could send it, and I would suggest that you send something like this:

To the Canadian Minister of Militia, Overseas,

Owing to dearth of surgeons University earnestly requests return of Major Bruce Robertson.

(Signed) Falconer.

I think that this cable ought to bring him home. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

December 14th, 1917

J. Ross Robertson, Esq.,

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Ross Robertson:

I have just received the enclosed cable from Sir Edward Kemp.

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 3rd., 1918

J. Ross Robertson, Esq.,

"The Telegram",

Toronto.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

The enclosed Cable has just been received from Sir Edward Kemp.

Yours sincerely,

President.